

CLAIMS

WE CLAIM:

1. A method to obtain a friendly name for Bluetooth devices responding to an inquiry comprising:

requesting the friendly name of Bluetooth devices until a name server is found, the name server found by determining after each request if the friendly name of the requested Bluetooth device contains a marker indicating that the requested Bluetooth device is a name server;

obtaining a list of friendly names the name server has cached;

requesting the friendly name of each remaining Bluetooth device that has not been determined.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of issuing an inquiry command.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

determining how long the name server has had the friendly names;

if the name server has had the friendly names longer than a predetermined time:

a) requesting the friendly name of Bluetooth devices until an other name server is found;

b) obtaining a list of friendly names the other name server has cached;

c) determining how long the other name server has had the friendly names;

d) repeating steps a) to c) if the other name server has had the friendly names longer than the predetermined time

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of requesting the friendly name of Bluetooth devices until a name server is found includes searching for the marker after a null character in the friendly name.

5. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of storing the friendly names.

6. A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 1.

7. A method to find a name server comprising the steps of:

a) requesting a friendly name of a Bluetooth device;

b) determining if the friendly name contains a marker indicating that the

Bluetooth device is a name server;

c) if the friendly name does not contain the marker, repeating steps a and b for additional Bluetooth devices until the marker is found; and

d) if the friendly name contains the marker, identifying the Bluetooth device as a name server.

8. The method of claim 7 further comprising the step of issuing an inquiry command and wherein the step of requesting the friendly name of the Bluetooth device comprises requesting the friendly name of the Bluetooth device if the Bluetooth device responded to the inquiry command.

9. The method of claim 7 wherein the marker of a name server is after a null character in the friendly name.

10. A computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 7.

11. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a data structure comprising:

a first portion of a data field containing data representing a friendly name of a device; and

a second portion of the data field containing data for determining if the device has name server capability.

12. The computer-readable medium of claim 11 wherein the data structure further comprises a third portion of the data field containing flags for determining further information about the device.

13. The computer-readable medium of claim 12 wherein the flags include an indication of how long the device has had a list of friendly names if the device is a name server.

14. The computer-readable medium of claim 13 wherein the flags include a version number.

15. The computer-readable medium of claim 13 wherein the flags include an estimate of a remaining battery life of the device.

16. The computer-readable medium of claim 13 wherein the flags include an indication of an up-time of the device.

17. The computer-readable medium of claim 13 wherein the flags include server statistics if the device is a server.